

Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

FIELD OFFICE: Stillwater Field Office, Carson City District

NEPA NUMBER: DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2013-0001-DNA

CASEFILE PROJECT NUMBER:

PROPOSED ACTION TITLE/TYPE: Geothermal Leasing of approximately 800 acres.

LOCATION/LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Preliminary list of lease parcel nominations

NV-13-01-007 160.000 Acres

 T.0220N, R.0350E, 21 MDM, NV

 Sec. 003 SWNE;

 004 SESW,NWSE;

 018 SWSE;

Churchill County

Carson City DO

Formerly Lease No.

NV-13-01-008 640.000 Acres

 T.0240N, R.0360E, 21 MDM, NV

 Sec. 012 W2;

 013 NW;

 024 NW;

Churchill County

Carson City DO

FORMERLY LEASE (NO)S. NVN061705 & NVN061707

Formerly Lease No.

APPLICANT: Stillwater Field Office, CCDO, BLM

A. Description of the Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures

The BLM is proposing to lease ~~2~~ parcels covering approximately 800 acres of public land for geothermal exploration and development in Washoe and Churchill Counties, Nevada, on January 29, 2013. Lease issuance alone does not authorize any ground disturbing activities to explore for or develop geothermal resources beyond casual use without site-specific approval for the intended operation. Such approval would require a separate site-specific environmental analysis.

Leasing geothermal resources by the BLM vests with the lessee a non-exclusive right to future exploration and an exclusive right to produce and use the geothermal resources within the lease area subject to existing laws, regulations, formal orders, and the terms, conditions, and stipulations in or attached to the lease form or included as conditions of approval in permits. Lease issuance alone does not authorize any ground disturbing activities to explore for or

develop geothermal resources without site specific approval for the intended operation. Such approval would be subject to further NEPA.

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

LUP Name: **Carson City Field Office Consolidated Resource Management Plan**

Date Approved: May 9, 2001

The proposed action is consistent with the applicable land use plan because it is clearly consistent with the following land use plan decisions, objectives, terms, conditions:

Objective 1: Encourage development of energy and mineral resources in a timely manner to meet national, regional and local needs consistent with the objectives for other public land uses.

Objective 2: Oil, gas, and geothermal exploration and production upon BLM land are conducted through leases with the Bureau and are subject to terms and stipulations to comply with all applicable federal and state laws pertaining to various considerations for sanitation, water quality, wildlife, safety, and reclamation. Stipulations may be site specific and are derived from the environmental analysis process.

C. Identify applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Geothermal Leasing in the Western United States, FES 08-44.

Parcels NV-13-01-007 and NV-13-01-008 are also covered under the following document: Fluid Mineral Leasing within Six Areas on the Carson City District, DOI-BLM-NV-C030-2009-0003-EA.

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?

The proposed action is within the project area analyzed in the 2008 PEIS and is identical to an alternative analyzed therein: "In accordance with the Energy Policy Act (EPA) of 2005 (Public Law 109-58, August 8, 2005), the BLM and the FS are proposing to make geothermal leasing decisions on pending lease applications submitted prior to January 1, 2005 and to facilitate geothermal leasing decisions on other existing and future lease applications and nominations."

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the new proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?

Yes, environmental concerns, interests and resource values have not changed at all since the completion of the 2008 PEIS. The preferred action alternative analyzed in the 2008 PEIS is still appropriate since the environmental constraints of geothermal leasing have not changed: “approximately 118 million acres of public land would be allocated as open and 79 million acres of NFS land would be legally open to geothermal leasing for direct and indirect use subject to existing laws, regulations, formal orders, stipulations attached to the lease form, and the terms and conditions of the standard lease form. The authorized officer retains the discretion to issue leases with stipulations that impose moderate to major constraints on use of surface of any leases in order to mitigate the impacts to other land uses or resource objectives as defined in the guiding resource management plan.”

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, range- land health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, and updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?

Yes, the anticipated impacts to the resources have not changed. The proposed action will not have any adverse effect on the human health or environment. Any changes to lists of sensitive or endangered species would be addressed in a site specific environmental analysis should any future activity be proposed.

4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?

Yes, the 2008 PEIS analyzed cumulative impacts on relevant resources. The cumulative impacts to public lands resulting from geothermal leasing would remain unchanged from those analyzed in the 2008 PEIS. Lease issuance alone does not authorize any ground disturbing activities to explore for or develop geothermal resources without site specific approval for the intended operation. Such approval would be subject to further NEPA.

5. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?

Yes, geothermal leasing was analyzed in the 2008 PEIS which describes the public involvement. Consultation with other agencies and interested parties was conducted for that document. Letters were sent to Washoe and Churchill County Commissioners regarding the upcoming lease offerings within their jurisdiction. The Washoe, Reno/Sparks Indian Colony, Pyramid Lake Paiute, and Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribes will be notified via letter of the proposed leasing action.


E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted

Name	Title	Resource/Agency Represented
Linda Appel	Rangeland Management Specialist	BLM Carson City District <i>la 9/24/12</i>
Ed Klimasauskas	Geologist	BLM Carson City District <i>la</i>
Jill Devaurs	Rangeland Management Specialist	BLM Carson City District <i>JD 9-24-12</i>
Matt Simons	Realty Specialist	BLM Carson City District <i>MS 9/24/12</i>
Dave Schroeder	Natural Resource Specialist	BLM Carson City District <i>DS 9/26/12</i>
Dan Westermeyer	Recreation Planner	BLM Carson City District <i>DW 9/26/12</i>
John Wilson	Wildlife Biologist	BLM Carson City District <i>JW 9-26-12</i>
Jason Wright	Archaeologist	BLM Carson City District <i>JW 9/26/12</i>

Note: Refer to the EA/EIS for a complete list of the team members participating in the preparation of the original environmental analysis or planning documents.

Conclusion

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of the NEPA.



Signature of Project Lead



Signature of NEPA Coordinator

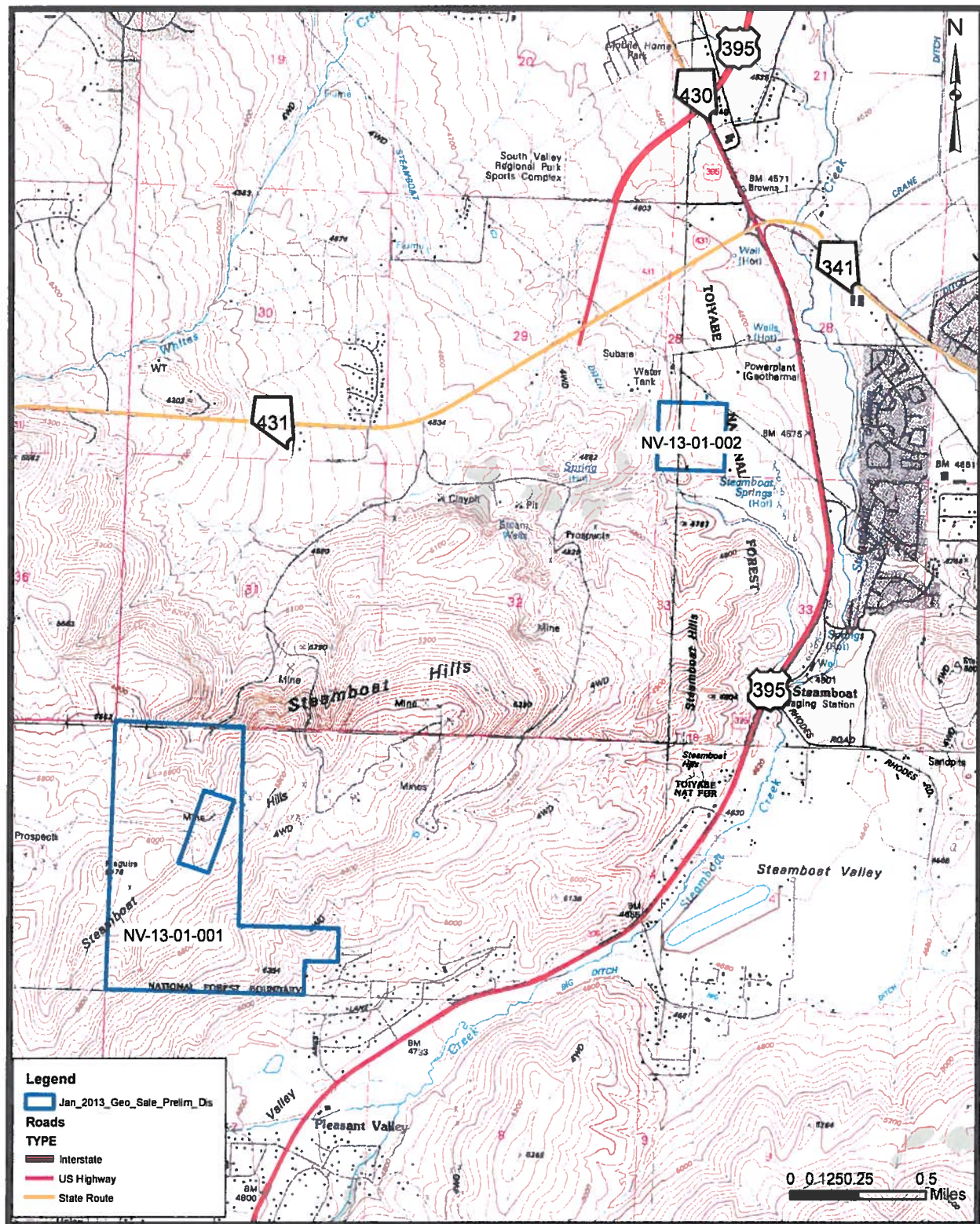


Signature of Responsible Official

Date 10/4/2012

Note: The signed Conclusion on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.

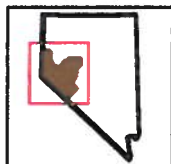
January 2013 Geothermal Nominations



Carson City District
Field Offices
Location Map



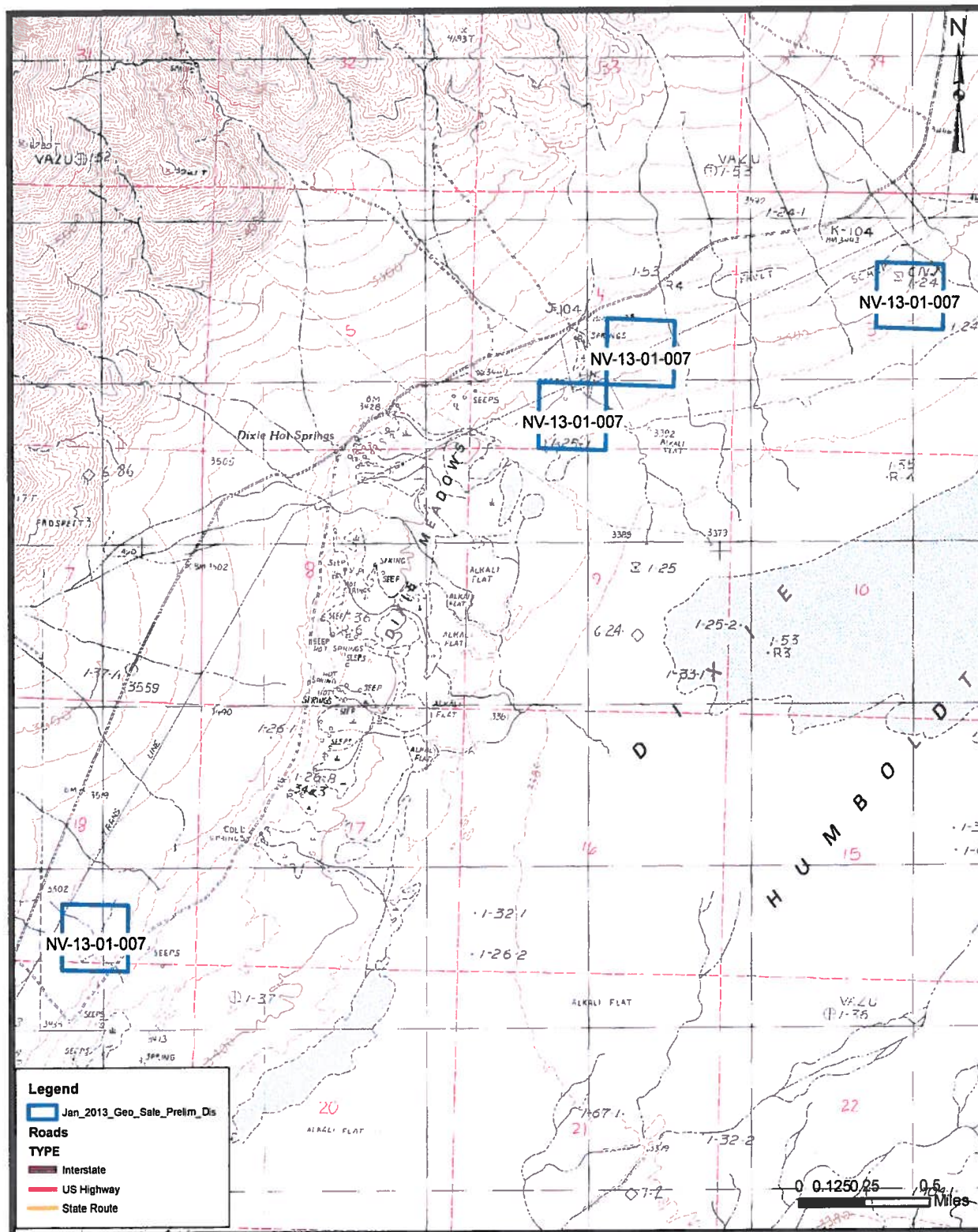
Nevada BLM
Carson City District
Location Map



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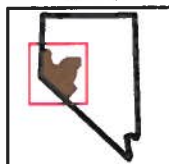
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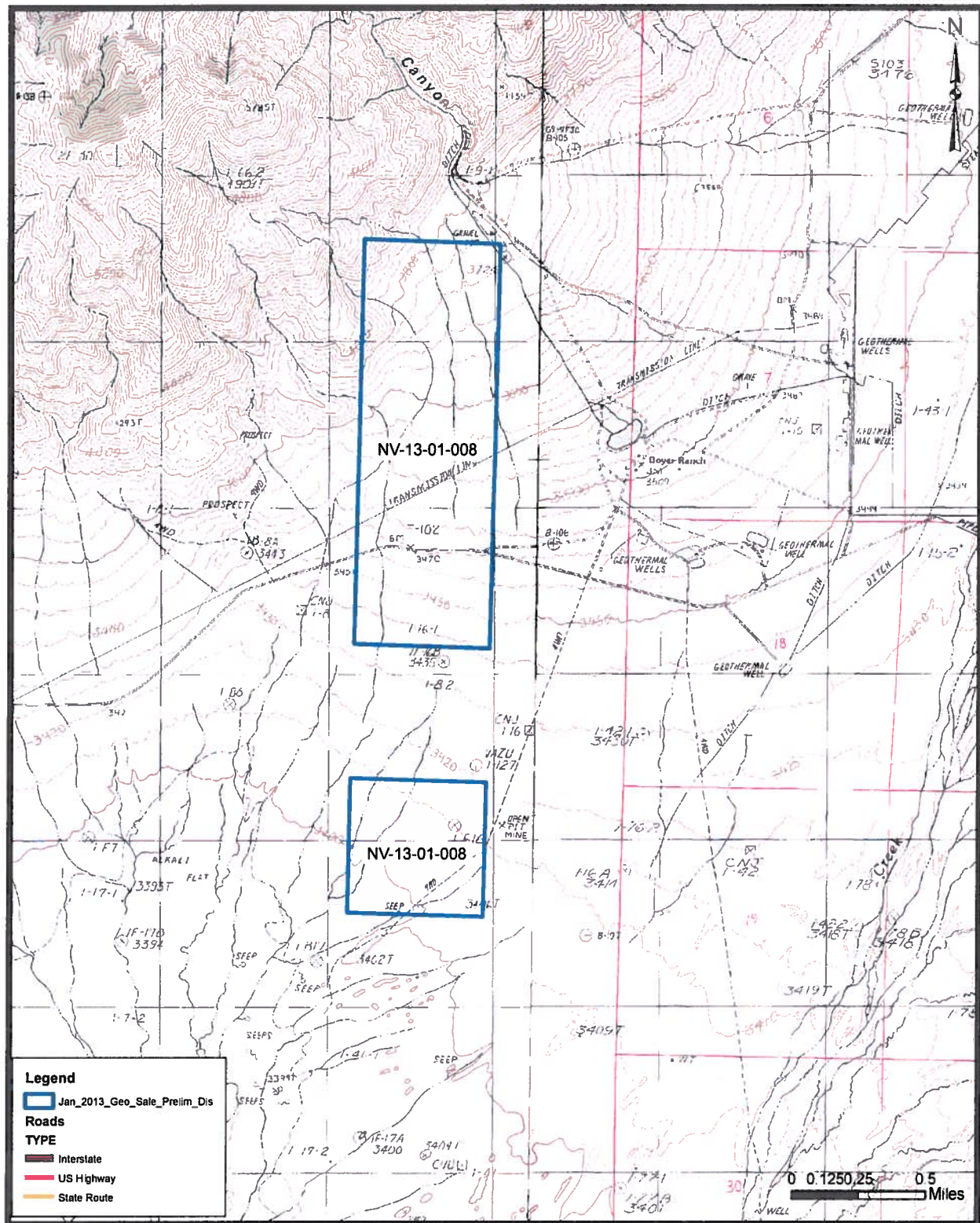
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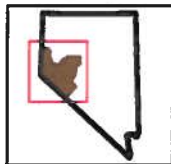
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